



How is the United States President elected?

Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates will NOT appear on the ballot until the November General Election.

If you're wondering why, take a look at the presidential elective process below.

February

Presidential Primaries and Caucuses

The major parties (Democrats and Republicans) hold a Presidential Primary or caucuses in every state, giving voters the opportunity to elect delegates to represent the candidate of their choice at their party's regional, statewide, and national conventions.

Washington State's Presidential Primary was February 19, 2008 and party caucuses were February 9, 2008.

August/September

National Party Conventions

At the national party conventions, delegates elected by their states' party members vote for the candidate they represent. The candidate with the most delegate votes is announced as the party's official presidential nominee. The nominee then announces his or her vice presidential running mate.

The Democratic National Convention will be held August 25-29 in Denver, Colorado. The Republican National Convention will be held September 1-4 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

November

General Election

The presidential nominees of both major parties, minor parties, and independent candidates will appear on the ballot in the November General Election.

The nationwide General Election will be held **November 4, 2008**.

January, 2009

Presidential Inauguration

The winner of the General Election, the President-elect, doesn't officially take office until he or she is sworn in on Inauguration Day.

Inauguration Day will occur on January 20, 2009 in front of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

“ I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. ”

- Presidential Oath of Office

